

By: Darby

H.B. No. 5568

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 5568:

By: King

C.S.H.B. No. 5568

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of the Railroad Commission of Texas to designate certain persons as the operator of an orphaned oil or gas well.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 89.047(a)(1-a), Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

(1-a) "Geothermal energy [~~Energy~~] conservation well" means a well used for the retention of energy that may be used to provide dispatchable generation of electricity for the power grid. A geothermal energy conservation well is not a battery energy storage resource.

SECTION 2. Section 89.047(f), Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

(f) The commission shall designate the person as the operator of the well if the person files with the commission:

(1) a factually supported claim based on a recognized legal theory to a continuing possessory right in:

(A) the mineral estate accessed by the well, as established by a current oil and gas lease, a recorded deed conveying a fee interest in the mineral estate, or any other documentation of an interest in the mineral estate;

(B) the geothermal energy and associated resources estate accessed by the well, as established by a current

1 geothermal lease, a recorded deed conveying a fee interest in the
2 geothermal estate, or any other documentation of an interest in the
3 geothermal estate; or

4 (C) the geologic space accessed by the well for
5 the purpose of a geothermal ~~[an]~~ energy conservation well, as
6 established by a recorded deed conveying a fee interest in the space
7 accessed by the well or any other documentation of an interest in
8 that space;

9 (2) a completed certificate of compliance; and

10 (3) a nonrefundable fee in the amount of \$250.

11 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.